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THE GULL
MONTHLY BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 48 | Berkeley, Calif. | March 1966 | Number 3

FILM ON CASCADES AT MARCH MEETING

"Prologue to a Park," a film on the North Cascades of Washington by J.P. Rihn, will be shown at the regular monthly meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society on **Thursday, March 10**. The meeting will begin at **7:30 p.m.** in the Rotary Natural Science Center near the Lake Merritt duck refuge, Oakland. The evening will start with a no-host dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue near Perkins. Visitors are welcome.

—RICHARD and MARY LEINBACH, *Program Co-chairmen*

FIELD TRIPS FOR MARCH

Saturday, March 5, (as announced in the February *Gull*) Bolinas Lagoon in Marin County for the study of water birds. This is a good trip for beginners. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at Audubon Canyon Ranch, which is about 3 miles north of Stinson Beach on State Highway 1. If time and weather permit, we will hike the ranch trails after lunch. Leaders, Dr. A. Laurence Curl, 526-7004, and Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta, 931-5257.

Wednesday, March 16, a flower walk around the quarry in East Oakland, starting from an old mine near Chabot Observatory. This is probably the best wildflower area remaining in the East Bay. In about 35 plant families we should see at least 50 native species. There are hillsides of purple Lupines, among which are clear pink sports. In swampy ground there are fine natural plantings of large Trilliums. On the hilltop beyond the quarry there are acres of Pansies, which may not be there after this year. Other choice flowers are Checker Lilies, Mariposa Lilies, Fairy Bells, Scarlet Delphiniums, Woodland Stars, Shooting Stars, Hounds' Tongues, Blue Witches, and Mule-ears. If you come by car, meet at 9 a.m. at the traffic signal light on upper 35th Avenue near Monterey Blvd. (below Warren Freeway). If you travel by bus, be at 35th Ave. and MacArthur Blvd. by 8:45 a.m. Leave San Francisco on the N bus at 8:15. From Oakland use the No. 34 or No. 57. From Berkeley take the No. 33 or 51 and transfer to the 57 at 40th St. Bring lunch and interested friends. Leader, Marshall Jencks, 534-9353. NOTE: After a cold winter and unusually heavy rainfall there should be splendid displays of flowers on the Mojave Desert in April. For identification see *California Desert Wildflowers* by Philip A. Munz.

Saturday, March 19, Tilden Park, Berkeley. Meet at Spruce Street Reservoir, at Spruce and Grizzly Peak Blvd., at 9 a.m. From San Francisco take 8:11 a.m. F bus and transfer to No. 67 at University Ave. at 8:57 a.m. Orange-crowned and Wilson's warblers may be seen and heard. A hike to nearby hills will be made to see spring flowers. Leader, L. R. Leinbach, 526-7649.

Saturday, April 2, Rodeo Lagoon, Marin County. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking area just beyond (west) the Fort Cronkite Tunnel. Many species of water birds may be found on the ocean or the brackish lagoons behind the sandbar. Early spring migrants can be expected. Leader, Dr. A. Laurence Curl, 526-7004.

Save **Saturday, April 23,** for a boat trip to the Farallon Islands. Details will be in the April *Gull.* (For Yosemite Trip see page 23.)

— MRS. VALERIA DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman.*

SAVE BAY FARM ISLAND MARSHES

Developers won the first round of the Alameda Conservation Association's lawsuit when Judge George Philips Jr. granted a motion for summary judgment. Allegations of the ACA concerning the public interest, the fact that city property has been given to private individuals, and the conflict of interest of city officials were not considered.

The ACA is ready to appeal. Golden Gate Audubon Society and many members have helped greatly in ACA's effort to protect the Bay Farm Island wildlife area. Now is the critical time. Please send contributions to Alameda Conservation Association, Box 341, Alameda, Calif. — ELSIE ROEMER.

Field Note: February 5 at high tide 21 clapper rails and 28 soras were at Bay Farm Island. Look for them on the high tides of March 5 and 6.

LAUREL REYNOLDS' FILM ON BAJA CALIFORNIA

Laurel Reynolds will show her new film, "Mexico's California," at 8 p.m. **Monday, April 11,** at the Berkeley Little Theatre, Allston Way at Grove, to raise money for Canyon Ranch. To order tickets at $2.00 each, please send your check, payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, to Audubon Canyon Ranch Benefit Film, Box 103, Berkeley 1, Calif., enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

"STEPPING STONES TO AUSTRALIA" — MARCH 7

"Stepping Stones to Australia" by Patricia Bailey Witherspoon will be the fifth and last film of the current Audubon Wildlife Series. Mrs. Witherspoon will present her colorful film on Monday, March 7, at 8:15 p.m. in the Berkeley Little Theatre, Allston Way at Grove St.

Three islands of the Pacific Ocean have been of great importance in developing air routes to Australia. Mrs. Witherspoon of Colorado Springs, Colorado, was a member of a Denver Museum expedition to Australia. En route, they stopped at Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands, tiny Canton Island on the equator, and Viti Levu, in the Fiji Islands to photograph the wildlife and local color. One of the great bird islands of the world, Canton supports colonies of man-o'-war birds, grey-backed terns, fairy terns, shearwaters, and three species of boobies. Flowering trees and shrubs, colorful reef fish and

flying red-tailed tropic birds are highlights of Viti Levu. Mrs. Witherspoon has accompanied her father, Dr. Alfred M. Bailey, Director of the Denver Museum of Natural History, on many of his expeditions throughout North America as well as the South Pacific.

Anyone who does not have a season ticket for the Audubon Wildlife Films may pay admission at the door ($1.50 for adults and $1.00 for students under 18). The doors will open at 7:45 p.m.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

"Making a Killing — Killing — Killing — Out West" is the title of a most illuminating article in the December 1965 issue of *Defenders of Wildlife News*. Dr. Alfred G. Etter, Field Representative for the *News* editorial staff, reports on his continued investigation of the Denver office of Wildlife Services (branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), including a personal interview with a Mr. LeBacus, Supervisor. Mr. LeBaeus supervises the annual slaughter of 50,000 or more "predatory" animals in Colorado, which kill always includes several thousand coyotes. In spite of these operations, which include trapping and use of the poison 1080, coyotes have held their own in many areas; ground squirrels and other rodents have increased, while sheep raising — the chief cause of this extravagant war on predators and rodents — has actually declined for various economic reasons! Therefore, Mr. LeBaeus wants more money from the sheepmen and other sources, but the Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Dept. is cool toward the whole business. Dr. Etter asserts the 1964 report of Mr. LeBaeus' operations has become unavailable, while the 1965 report has been "classified" and unavailable from the U.S. Bureau of Fish and Wildlife!

After reading the preceding we were gratified to find in the January-February 1966 *Audubon Magazine* a column by President Buchheister on the subject: "Bounties — Going . . . but Not Gone." Buchheister pays tribute to several states which have recently removed costly bounties, but points out that over $2 million is still paid in bounties annually. Mr. H. Chas. Laun of Stephens College, Missouri, wrote in *Audubon Magazine* for May-June and July-August 1963: "It's time for Mutiny on the Bounties," and Mr. Laun has helped Missouri to establish sane attitudes toward predatory animals. So it is timely that we find in the same number of *Defenders of Wildlife News* another article entitled "Common Sense in Predator Control" by Werner Nagel of the Missouri Dept. of Conservation. The Missouri code makes no distinction between predators and other forms of wildlife, but this enlightened Department stresses farmer education and habitat improvement. When a need for local control of some species is demonstrated they counsel and assist the farmer. It's "hats off" to these Missouri conservationists! May their findings and their modus operandi be widely studied — and imitated — perhaps even by Secretary Stewart Udall, who recently promised more federal funds and control efforts against predators to New Mexico ranchers.

Now we must ironically, but in fairness, put in a plug for a sound "Endangered Species Bill," a prime conservation measure of the Johnson-Udall administration. According to Charlie Callison of the National Audubon Magazine staff, this bill has met opposition from some state game departments and sportsmen's organizations who fear new federal regulations over hunting and fishing on government-owned lands. These groups have forced into this H.R. Bill 9424 a provision which would open entire federal refuges to shooting of "resident game birds"! (Up to 40% can now be opened.) Think of this impact on the Sacramento Valley Refuge, for example — an area where Audubon holds many field trips! National Audubon will protest this provision before the Senate Committee, and we sincerely hope an acceptable form of this urgent bill will result.

As urgent as is the need for immediate action for the "National Redwood Park," we must constantly scan the field for new moves by the "Developers." Now it is the Channel Islands they have seized upon for "suburbia" plans, before a proposed Channel Islands National Park can become a reality. You can read about this in the January

Sierra Club Bulletin and also other timely conservation news at the Berkeley Audubon office or at the Rotary Natural Science Center, Oakland. March will bring special week-end conservation films and displays to the Center also.
CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION WEEK: — MARCH 7 TO 14.

PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

WANTED: HOSTS/HOSTESSES FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Marin Audubon Society is undertaking to provide hosts/hostesses for Canyon Ranch during the months of March and May this year and Golden Gate will be responsible for the months of April and June. This is one of the most rewarding volunteer jobs offered. You not only make a personal contribution in terms of time and effort, but at the same time you treat yourself to a whole day in a beautiful place. If we can count on your help this year, please notify Warren Larson (525-9149). A coordinator of hostesses will be appointed soon and her name and address will appear in next month's *Gull.*

WANTED: MEN'S WORK CREW FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Dudley S. Hubbard of the Marin Audubon Society — a good, hard worker — is getting together a work crew for Audubon Canyon Ranch to help in the hundred and one ways necessary at the ranch every year. If you can help, please let him hear from you — 83 Magee Ave., Mill Valley. (Phone 388-2967.)

GOOD NEWS FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

When it was announced earlier that Audubon Canyon Ranch was acquiring an important strip of property along its northern boundary, the land was estimated at about 90 acres. Now as a result of a new survey, the strip turns out to be only 60 acres. This means that the price of the land is only $41,000 instead of the $60,000 first estimated. The new strip will still include a road from the Coast Highway to Bolinas Ridge, remove the present easment, include the northerly ridge of the Garden Club Canyon and protect the ranch's watershed. The new purchase agreement has been executed and a down payment of $12,000 made; after ten annual payments of $2900 plus 5% interest, the land will be ours.

Altogether, $115,625 is still due on both the ranch proper and this new strip, plus $7975 interest, or a total of $123,600. Counting cash contributions and securities being held for us by the San Francisco Foundation that together amount to $72,625, we still have $50,975 to go. Pledges will, of course, reduce this figure still further, but we still have a long way to go.

LAKE MERCED FIELD TRIP REPORT

On February 5 in the rain 30 members walked around the north end of the lake, then drove down to the south end for lunch, and also walked through the wooded area east of the lake until a group of motorcycles appeared. We observed 38 species of birds, including common loon, brown pelican, green heron, common goldeneye, a *yellow-shafted flicker,* myrtle warbler, and a very controversial hummingbird. (The final decision was an Anna with violet overtones.) — PAT TRIGGS, *Leader.*

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Just after the end of the January 11 field trip in Golden Gate Park, Val DaCosta spotted a *summer tanager* in the trees near the Fuchsia Gardens and seven lingering birders observed the interesting red-patched plumage. On January 18 Eleanor Hebard found 3 *blue-winged teal* (2 males) in the Bay Farm Island marsh at high tide and Vi Homem photographed them on January 21. Dr. A. Laurence Curl of El Cerrito saw a *white-winged dove* on his feeder at a range of about 3 feet on January 28. The field marks, including rounded tail, were clearly visible. On February 6 Ted Van Velzen of Point Reyes Observatory reported a *European widgeon* near Limantour Spit, Point Reyes National Seashore.

Yours sincerely, Mrs. Harriet Nicewonger.

Dear Mrs. N.: What makes the butterfly appear in the chrysalis? Jack Hahn, age 7.

Dear Jack: We do not really know what it is that brings this about. But when a caterpiller has eaten a lot and grown to full size it covers itself over with a hard case and now inside the case its body turns into a thick, liquid mass from which the butterfly takes form.

Dear Mrs. N.: I would like to subscribe to your magazine, the Cygnet. I would like to know why trees have rings for each year. I am 11 years old. Nina Hahn.

Dear Nina: The live part of the trunk of the tree lies between the bark and the wood. This is called the cambium layer and it serves the purpose of adding new material to the trunk of the tree. It adds some on the inside, a dark and a light layer every year and some just below in the bark. This is what makes the rings.

The Sea and its Wonderful Creatures by Ronald Reed
Published by Whitman Publ. Co., Racine, Wisconsin, 1965, .59¢

A Bird is Born by E. Bosinger & J. M. Guilcher
Published by Sterling Publ. Co., New York, 1960, $2.50

Western Butterflies by Arthur C. Smith
Lane Publishing Co., Menlo Park, Calif., $2.50

Introducing Our Western Birds by Matthew F. Vessel & Herbert Wong
Fearon, Palo Alto, 1965, $3.95

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

The Monarch Butterfly
Published by the Encyclopedia Britannica, 1964, $1.00

Seashore Life on Our Pacific Coast by Matthew F. Vessel & Herbert Wong
Fearon Publ., Palo Alto, 1965, $3.95

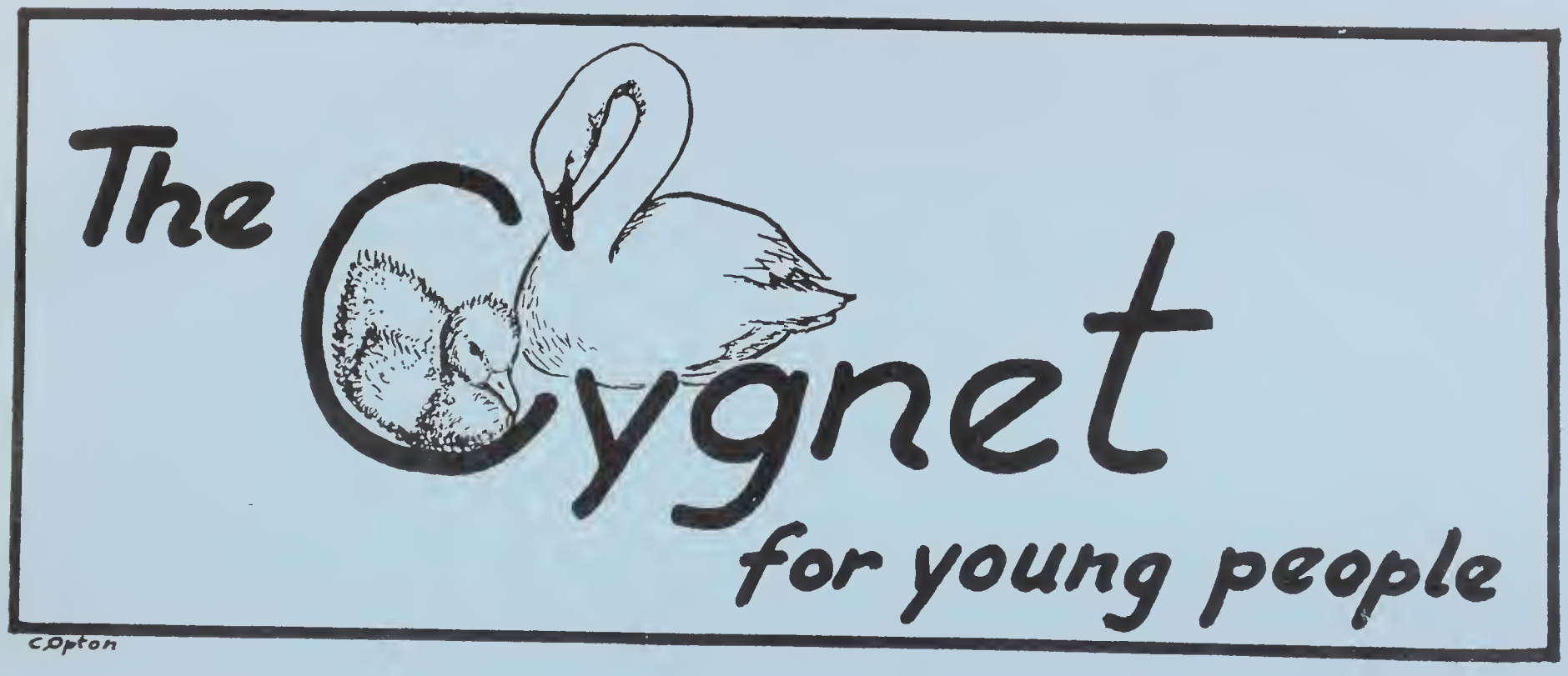
Starfish by Edith Thatcher Hurd
Thos. Crowell Co., N.Y., 1962, $2.50

These books can all be seen and purchased at the bookshop of the National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4. The profit on everything sold here goes toward helping the conservation program of the National Audubon Society.

This month we have a picture of a scorpion. The scorpions in central California are not of the poisonous variety. The bulb-like, pointed organ at the tip of its tail delivers a sharp pain, not unlike the sting of a wasp or yellow jacket, but the results do not last and will bear no worse consequences to most people, than a wasp sting.

The scorpion belongs to the same group of animals as the spider. These are called arachnids. This name comes from a very old story that runs like this: Once upon a time there was a maiden by the name of Arachne, who had learned to spin, weave and embroider so well that everyone marveled at her skill. The nymphs themselves would come to watch her and would ask her whether she had learned from Minerva, who was the goddess of wisdom as well as of spinning and weaving. Arachne, however was haughty and denied ever having been a pupil of the goddess. In her pride she even challenged Minerva to a test of skill, saying that she was not afraid to compete with the best and if she should lose the contest would be willing to suffer any penalty. All who heard this bold boast were frightened. But Minerva replied that she would be willing to engage in the contest. When the day came, Minerva wove into her web the scenes of the twelve gods and all the wonderful things they had done. But Arachne wove into hers scenes of all the evils the gods had brought about. When they had finished, though Minerva was astonished at the beauty of Arachne's work, she tore it into shreds by striking it with her shuttle, and then she touched the maiden's forehead making her at last aware of the awful thing she had done. Arachne now realizing her own guilt, hanged herself. But Minerva, desiring to teach others not to be so presumptious, sprinkled the dead maiden with a sacred juice and changed her into a spider, which even today spins forever a thread by which she hangs.

To the arachnids belong besides the spiders and scorpions, mites, ticks and other jointed-legged creatures. All of them have eight legs and two parts to the body, the forepart being covered with a shell-like carapace. In addition to their eight legs spiders have a pair of antenna-like organs with a poison sting at the end of one of them. Scorpions lack these chelicerae, as they are called, but have instead the sting at the end of the long tail. All arachnids have another pair of organs in the fore part of the body.



Published by GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

No. 3 — Spring 1966

SCORPIONS

LETTERS

Dear Mrs. Nickelsburg:

We have not been called children since 1930 or so, but we enjoyed Samuel Dickson's article, PETER, THE JAY in Cygnet, number 2, that we want to write and thank him through you.

We have had 2 pet jays, father and son (so we believe) one after the other, whom we called simply, "Mr. Jay." They would come to us whenever we stretched out our hands with food in them, if we stood still and talked to them in a quiet encouraging voice. We longed to use our other hand to stroke their shining feathers, but did not, because we so wanted not to frighten them. One of them liked to use our thumb to cling to, like a twig, while eating. We were never scratched or bitten.

They knew when we came home, and which doors to the outside to lurk around, meanwhile looking in through the glass at us, and sometimes making tiny noises in their throats. Most fascinating was a voice or song they sometimes used, as we thought, to talk "sweetly" to us: a kind of quiet warbling, gentle and melodious, without a touch of harshness.

OVERNIGHT GUEST

She landed at twilight out near the tip
Of a Hawthorn shoot so young
That her tiny feet could find a grip
Yet leave no mark where done.
As darkness rose, her bulge became
A leaf upon the tree.
Who knows now if her eyes are shut?
How much at night they see?
Next morning early she was there,
But shortly flew away
To drink her fill of nectar
And dive-bomb in her play.
Will she return to young tree bough
When dusk fills up our sight?
Oh, lucky, lucky Hawthorn thou,
The hummer's back tonight.

VERNA R. JOHNSTON

BOOK LIST

A NEW CONSERVATION RECORDING

God Bless the Grass is the title of a unique Columbia recording of conservation ballads, including the title song, the "Cement Octopus" and others by Berkeley's Malvina Reynolds. The irony of modern man's impact on the natural environment is cleverly expressed in a variety of ballads sung by Pete Seeger. One song entitled "70 Miles" describes the "progress" of San Francisco Bay from many miles of wind and spray to a garbage dump. On the slipcase Justice William O. Douglas wrote an appropriate essay to introduce this new release (Columbia CL 2432 or stereo CS 9232). If you would like to hear the entire recording, visit the Audubon Conservation Resource Center, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, where it is now in stock. It sells for $2.98.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of	*Gift of*
Mrs. Anne M. Gunderson	Margaret Peterson
Harold Peterson	Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Fallgatter and Peter A. Veitch
Gus Miller	Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Fallgatter
Mrs. Sylvia Crespi	Miss Ruth Newborgh
Minnie H. Young	Clara E. Bailey, Roberta J. Long, Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Scott, Alice Sherfey, Marietta Edwards, Paul and Marion Covel.
Paul Bresson	Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Droge
Robert R. Porter	Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Delfino
Dorothea Van Orden Harris	Edith Van Orden
Mrs. Eve Foree	Helen F. Keller

Also, a gift was made to Audubon Canyon Ranch *in honor of* Mrs. William L. Bender by Dr. William L. Bender.

— DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*
(854 Longridge Rd., Oakland 10, Calif.)

OAKLAND CHRISTMAS COUNT — 1965

The 1965 Christmas Count total of 162 species was down from the previous year's 171 species. Outstanding birds were fifteen Violet-green Swallows, Black Brant and Pomarine Jaeger.

After the count about fifty participants went to the home of Admiral and Mrs. Watt for a buffet dinner. All who attended are grateful to Admiral and Mrs. Watt for their kindness in hosting the group for the fourth consecutive year.

Count day: December 26, 1965

Leaders: Harry Adamson, Dr. Albert Boles, Joshua A. Barkin, Dr. Howard Cogswell, Paul Covel, Dr. A. Laurence Curl, Valeria DaCosta, Norman Fitzwater, Mrs. Bud Fry, Eleanor Hebard, Lewis Klein, Richard Leinbach, Marie Mans, Dave Nichols, Thomas Oczkewecz, Paul Opler, Aileen Pierson, Alice Radcliffe, Elsie Roemer, Loris P. Smith, Beth Snyder, Rich Stallcup, Patricia Tiggard, Jack Whetstone, Phyllis Zweigart.

Observers: Betty Adamson, Allan & Sheila Baldridge, Marjorie Atkinson, Stanley & Gertrude Bialos, Herbert Boese, Howard Brownson, Aubrey Burns, Mr. & Mrs. Chet Chandik, Harold Connan, Chris Coulon, Jimmy Covel, Hallie Curl, Robert DaCosta, Jane Dang, W. Marvin Davis, Terry DeKay, Dolores Dodd, Richard Erickson, Dr. & Mrs. Ray Ericson, Steven & Ruth Fiske, Dave Fortman, Ann Follis, Erline Hevel, Vi Homem, Mrs. Lewis Klein, Betty Lennon, Mary Leinbach, Thomas Lux, Jack Mann, Mrs. Echs Nesbitt, Agnes Oczkewecz, Sandra Opler, Edward Ormondroyd, George Peyton, Hope Purmont, Jessie Saunders, Mary Smith, Nathalie Snyder, Isabel Spiriti, Glen Strouse, Sam & Betty Tanner, Scott Terrill, John & Polly Thomas, Dave Tilles, Patricia Triggs, Inez Troxell, Bertha Underhill, Peter Veitch, Shirley Walton, John Wessel, Wallace Wood.

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Audubon Canyon Ranch Fund Raising	Mrs. Myra Browne	482 Broadmoor, San Leandro	568-1921

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately $2.00 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California 94704 848-4042